United Nations S/2011/723

# Security Council

Distr.: General
17 November 2011

Original: English

## Letter dated 16 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Osman Mohammed Saleh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, in connection with the recent unfounded allegations made against Eritrea by the Government of Kenya (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its enclosure could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

11-59654 (E) 211111

Please recycle

## Annex to the letter dated 16 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to inform you that the Government of Eritrea is formally requesting the Security Council to launch an independent and impartial investigation into the serious and unfounded accusations by the Government of Kenya against Eritrea.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Government of Kenya has accused Eritrea of delivering, in Baidoa, Somalia, three planeloads of arms to Al-Shabaab.

In its statements of 2 and 5 November 2011, the Government of Eritrea categorically affirmed that the charges were utterly baseless and pure fabrication. Furthermore, Eritrea bilaterally sought to assure Kenya that Eritrea was in no way involved in any arms shipment to Al-Shabaab and informed the Kenyan Government that the Eritrean Foreign Minister was ready to travel to Nairobi to seek an explanation from his Kenyan counterpart and to deliver a letter from President Isaias Afwerki to President Mwai Kibaki. Instead of responding positively to the Eritrean gesture, Kenya has, regrettably, taken up the matter with the United Nations Sanctions Committee, repeating the unfounded accusations against Eritrea.

It is in light of these serious developments that Eritrea has called for an independent and impartial investigation into the matter. If, as Eritrea confidently believes, the investigation determines that there is no basis whatsoever to the very serious and harmful accusations by the Government of Kenya, Eritrea calls on the Security Council to take action that would redress the injustice suffered by the people and Government of Eritrea.

Defamation of a Member State of the United Nations should not be indulged in with impunity and must not be tolerated, given its negative implications for regional peace and security.

(*Signed*) Osman **Saleh**
Minister